



The Rip Tide



The Bi-monthly E-newsletter of the New Hampshire Coastal Program

July, 2006

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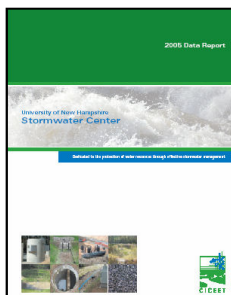
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NEWS

■ NHCP Announces Grant Awardees ■

NHCP funded six grant applications for a total of \$189,000 in this year's competitive grant round. NHCP received a total of 11 applications and \$456,166 in requested funds.

This year's grantees are the Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation, town of Hampton Falls, Gundalow Company, Natural Resources Outreach Coalition, Cocheco River Watershed Coalition and Great Bay Coast Watch. Each year NHCP also sets aside additional grant funding for the Rockingham and Strafford Planning Commissions to support local technical planning assistance to the 17 coastal zone municipalities.

Matching grant funds are available to NHCP through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management. The amount of money NHCP can pass-through to its grant program depends on how much money is allocated at the federal level to NOAA. Although this year's federal funding is about level with last year's funding, it doesn't keep pace with rising program costs despite recent cuts in the program.



"Our pass-through grant program has been cut in half in the last four years. At the same time, we've eliminated three staff positions," said Ted Diers, NHCP program manager.

A panel of six NHCP staff reviewed and scored each grant application using a ranking system. Project scores are based on 13 categories, including which coastal policy is being addressed. This year a new category, "excess match," was added, encouraging applicants to provide more than the half-match requirement.

"Projects proposing more than the required match and that addressed the highest priority coastal program policies rose to the top," said Dave Murphy, grants coordinator.

Through federal funding, NHCP enables projects that address priorities in coastal management, including water quality protection, coastal wetlands restoration and preservation, and public access. Matching grants are offered annually on a competitive basis to eligible applicants, like coastal communities, schools and nonprofit groups. Match can be money or in-kind services.

Grantee Project Descriptions

- NHCP funds to the Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation will enable the program to continue to address an all too common problem on New Hampshire's beaches: marine debris. Through several volunteer programs, the Blue Ocean Society makes an on-the-ground difference in the appearance, health and safety of our beaches. NHCP's assistance also helps continue the Blue Ocean Society's educational programs, which include a presentation inside an inflatable life-size whale.
- The town of Hampton Falls will use NHCP funds to help purchase and permanently

NHCP funds will support the Gundalow Company's educational programs. Photo: Eric Winch copyright 2005

protect a 14-acre land parcel on the Taylor River that is vital to water protection and public access. The land lies adjacent to the already protected Marsh Lane Conservation Preserve, adding to the preserve. Public access plans include a small parking area, nature trails and non-motorized boat access.

- NHCP funds will support the Gundalow Company's series of lectures, presentations, workshops, events and year-round public educational programs on the importance of coastal resources onboard the *Captain Edward Adams*, a replica of a historic gundalow native to the Seacoast region.
- NHCP's support of the Natural Resources Outreach Coalition (NROC) is critical in maintaining the effective delivery, implementation, tracking, and evaluation of all NROC activities. NROC has assisted over 10 communities during the past five years. The NROC team meets with municipal officials and interested community members to focus their natural resource protection goals, develop an implementation strategy, and locate the technical and financial assistance needed to accomplish goals.
- NHCP funds will aid the Cocheco River Watershed Coalition's volunteer monitoring

program with sites primarily in Dover and Rochester. The program allows volunteers to learn scientific techniques while contributing to water quality information that will be used to support watershed planning efforts.

- Great Bay Coast Watch will use NHCP funds to continue its work as a volunteer monitoring program, testing water quality parameters like fecal coliform levels and salinity at sixteen sites in the coastal watershed. Volunteers will also continue to monitor toxic phytoplankton blooms and water quality at sites in Hampton, Rye and New Castle to expand the database of potentially hazardous phytoplankton species present in New Hampshire's coastal waters.

For more information on the pass-through grant program, visit:

<http://www.des.nh.gov/coastal/Grants/index.htm>

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■ Partnership kicks off “Carry It-Don’t Bury It” Campaign ■



Cigarette butts are the most common trash found on New Hampshire coastal cleanups.

June 29-July 5 was National Clean Beaches Week and also kicked off New Hampshire's “Carry It-Don’t Bury It” campaign. State and private campaign partners will encourage

Carry It-Don’t Bury It Campaign Partners

**DES Beach Inspection Program
DES Coastal Program
DRED Division of Parks and Recreation
Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation**

beachgoers to dispose of their cigarette butts properly in designated receptacles, not the sand, this summer. Partners also hope to motivate people to carry out all of their trash instead of leaving it on the beach. N.H.

State Parks has a "Carry-in Carry-Out" trash policy in all their parks, including Seacoast beaches.

"Cigarette butts and other types of litter on our beaches are a huge problem. It's important to keep in mind that the beach is not an ashtray or a garbage can," said Catherine Coletti, NHCP Communications Coordinator. Nearly all cigarette filters are made of cellulose acetate, a form of plastic, and they can take many years to degrade.

This summer New Hampshire State Park staff will place 20 cigarette butt disposal stations on Hampton State Beach, four at Hampton Beach State RV Park, four at Wallis Sands State Beach, four at Odiorne Point State Park, three at Kingston State Park (lake in Kingston New Hampshire), and three at Rye Harbor. Staff will maintain the stations on a weekly basis. The stations were purchased with the help of the Beach Inspection Program.

The disposal stations are the first step in a multi-phase effort to increase awareness of the problem of cigarette butts on the beach. The hope is to motivate people to put butts in the new disposal stations. Project partners will use cleanup events to highlight the issue, post new signage about where to safely dispose butts, set up a website and air announcements on local community radio and TV. In addition, informational kiosks on some state beaches will encourage beachgoers to carry out their cigarette butts.

In 2005, cigarette butts were the most common debris item collected at New Hampshire beach cleanups, according to the Blue Ocean Society, which runs several cleanup programs on our coastal beaches throughout the year with NHCP funding support. In addition, a startling 52,000 cigarette butts were collected from 24 sites along the coast and Great Bay on International Coastal Cleanup Day in September, 2005.

In addition to beach cleanups and 150 New Hampshire Parks State Park summer staff, New Hampshire State Park's sand sifters help address the problem by filtering sand and catching cigarette butts and other trash before redepositing the sand. One sand sifter operates on Hampton Beach and a second sand sifter, partially funded by NHCP, is dedicated solely to state-owned beaches in Rye.

Even with all of these efforts, there is no way to address the problem of cigarette butts and other trash on our beaches without beachgoers helping out. Please carry it, don't bury it! For more information visit the Carry It- Don't Bury It Campaign website at <http://www.des.nh.gov/coastal/CIDBI/index.html>.

To participate in a coastal cleanup or learn more about the Adopt-A-Beach Program, contact the Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation at (603) 431-0260 or info@blueoceansociety.org. For more information and cleanup dates, visit <http://www.blueoceansociety.org/cleanup.htm>

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■ Know the Law on No Discharge Areas—Pass it on to Boaters! ■

By Barbara McMillan DES Watershed Assistance Program

Going out on your boat in New Hampshire coastal waters this summer? If your boat has a toilet system, you need to know the laws regarding sewage discharge from that system.

In September 2005, to protect the numerous shellfish beds, beaches, and other recreational opportunities on New Hampshire's coast, the DES designated its

coastal waters as a No Discharge Area for boat sewage.

A No Discharge Area is a body of water where all boat sewage discharge, whether treated or untreated, is prohibited. New Hampshire's coastal No Discharge Area consists of all tidal and estuarine waters, including all bays and rivers, and also ocean waters within three miles of the New Hampshire shoreline and the Isles of Shoals.



New Hampshire's coastal waters are serviced by five stationary pumpout stations and one mobile pumpout boat.

By prohibiting the discharge of boat sewage, DES is helping to protect the state's sensitive natural resources. Boat sewage discharges are highly concentrated with bacteria and nutrients, and may also contain toxic disinfectants such as formaldehyde. These pollutants can contribute to unhealthy water for shellfish, other fauna and flora and unsafe conditions for swimming and other activities.

To comply with the No Discharge law, boats with holding tanks or portable toilets must pumpout their wastes at an onshore pumpout station or via the mobile pumpout boat. Those boats with treatment systems (maceration and/or disinfection) are also prohibited from discharging sewage. This can be accomplished by closing the seacock and padlocking it or attaching a non-releasable wire tie; locking the door to the head; or removing the seacock handle

(with seacock in the off position!). If your boat has both a treatment system and holding tank, simply divert the sewage wastes to the holding tank and remove the wastes either through a pumpout station or overboard after the boat is outside the No Discharge Area boundaries. It is permissible to discharge **treated** sewage in waters that are **not** formally designated as a No Discharge Area, however untreated sewage must be removed via a pumpout station at all times.

Pumpout stations service boats with fixed toilets while dump stations collect wastes from portable toilets. New Hampshire's coastal waters are currently serviced by five stationary pumpout stations located at marinas and one mobile pumpout boat that can travel to where the service is required.

To protect New Hampshire's lakes and rivers, DES also enforces a "No Discharge" law for inland waters. Boats cannot contain devices that will allow for overboard discharge of boat sewage. In addition, New Hampshire state law requires all boats with onboard toilets be inspected to ensure compliance with the laws. There are 18 pumpout and/or dump stations available at marinas throughout the Lakes Region.

If you own a boat with a toilet, please do your part to reduce pollution by using pumpout and dump stations. To find a pumpout or dump station near you, on New Hampshire coastal and inland waters, visit the DES Clean Vessel Act website at www.des.nh.gov/wmb/cva.

EPA New England has set a goal of making all New England coastal waters No Discharge by 2010. Visit the EPA website to read a plan for this goal at www.epa.gov/region01/eco/nod

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Meet NHCP's New Interns ■

NHCP welcomes interns Kevin Lucey, Elizabeth "Liz" Durfee and Miles Waniga.

Liz and Miles join NHCP for a six-month internship with the Coastal Volunteer Biomonitoring



Liz Durfee and Miles Waniga

Assessment Program. This fall, the program will look at macroinvertebrates, or insects that can be seen with the naked eye, as an indicator of water quality in the Exeter River, Oyster River and Cocheco River Watersheds. Liz and Miles will assess potential monitoring sites, train volunteers on how to sample and identify the insects, and coordinate volunteers.

During her undergrad work, Liz did an independent study on macroinvertebrates in New Zealand. In May 2006, she joined the alumni of the University of New Hampshire with a B.S. in Environmental Conservation and is considering graduate study in sustainable design. Miles holds a B.S. in Biology and Environmental Studies from St. Lawrence University (2005) and past work experiences include helping restore coral reef systems in the Bahamas and using macroinvertebrates to assess and compare water quality in two streams in New York. Contact Liz and Miles at (603) 559-0028 or mwaniga@des.state.nh.us, ldurfee@des.state.nh.us

This summer, Kevin coordinates the New Hampshire Marsh Monitors, a volunteer program that gives participants the chance to learn about salt marsh ecology while collecting valuable information about salt marshes. Kevin will coordinate volunteers, set up fieldwork and provide assistance in the field. After graduating from the University of New Hampshire with a B.S. in Environmental Conservation in 2002, Kevin spent four years working to restore salmon populations for the Department of Fish and Game in northern California. Experiences include stream habitat assessment and restoration planning/implementation. This summer marks Kevin's fourth internship with DES, perhaps a record holder! Contact Kevin at (603) 559-0026 or klucey@des.state.nh.us

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■ Workshop Participants Develop Regional Monitoring Guidelines ■

In June, more than 70 river scientists, engineers and resource managers came together to develop monitoring guidance for the Gulf of Maine region at the River Barrier Removal Monitoring Workshop. This guidance will help project partners evaluate the



Bellamy River Dam in 1935, Dover.
This head-of-the tide dam was
removed in November, 2004.

success of river barrier removal projects. Through a series of breakout groups and plenary discussions, participants developed a list of monitoring parameters and reporting standards in four topical areas: hydrology, hydraulics, and sediment; fish; instream habitat; and wetland and riparian ecology. Participants heard about river barrier removal and restoration monitoring from several speakers, including Jim McBroom of Milone & McBroom, Inc., Michael Kline from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, and Ray Konisky from the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve.

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The next step in developing the guidance is for the steering committee of conference organizers to take the input from the conference and develop the monitoring framework.

Across the Gulf of Maine watershed, agencies and nonprofits work to remove failing dams, replace undersized and impassable culverts, and improve fish passage over human-made obstacles. Financial and political support for these restoration projects is growing, but few projects are monitored after they take place. Consistent monitoring across the region will help evaluate the success of individual restoration projects; make comparisons between projects; and predict possible outcomes of future projects.

Partners in organizing the workshop included NHCP, NOAA Restoration Center, USFWS, Massachusetts Riverways Program, Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans, New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources, New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government, and American Rivers. The workshop was modeled on a similar process used in 1999 to develop a salt marsh monitoring framework now used across the Gulf of Maine coast

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■ Blue Ocean Society Seeks Volunteers ■

Adopt-A-Beach

The Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation is looking for businesses, clubs, schools and other groups to participate in the Adopt-A-Beach Program. Groups clean up and record data from their adopted site each month or can also choose to alternate with another group working on the same beach. The northern section of Foss Beach in Rye and the southern end of North Beach in Hampton are currently up for adoption. Blue Ocean is also looking for Seabrook residents/businesses to adopt sections of Seabrook Beach. Regular monitoring helps follow pollution trends on individual beaches in New Hampshire. For more information, visit www.blueoceansociety.org/beachadopt.htm, call (603) 431-0260 or e-mail jen@blueoceansociety.org



Club Finz at Adopt-A-Beach cleanup on Wallis Sands, Rye, N.H.

The Blue Ocean Society seeks volunteers who love people and the ocean to assist with educating the public on tide pool animals. Volunteers use a tide pool to interact with visitors onboard boat cruises in Portsmouth. For more information, call (603) 431-0260 or e-mail jen@blueoceansociety.org

■ Save the Date—September 16 is International Coastal Cleanup Day ■

Annually in September, thousands of volunteers from over 90 countries clean a coastal area as part of International Coastal Cleanup Day, the largest one-day volunteer event of its kind. The Blue Ocean Society is coordinating this year's cleanup in New Hampshire with NHCP funding. There will also be an event hosted by the Coastal Program following the cleanup. Check the DES Calendar of Events for September at <http://www.des.nh.gov/asp/DESCalendar/default.asp?theMonth=Sep06> in early August for more details.

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NEW PUBLICATIONS & PLANNING TOOLS

■ No Discharge Area Brochure ■



Do you own a boat or know someone who does? This joint DES and federal agency publication, "What Every Boater Should Know About New Hampshire's No Discharge Area," provides a map and description of the No Discharge Area in New Hampshire and what it means for boaters. The publication also includes a listing of boat pumpout facilities in coastal New Hampshire. In 2005, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approved New Hampshire's request to designate its coastal waters as a No Discharge Area. This designation applies to all of New Hampshire's coastal waters, and means that discharges of treated and untreated boat sewage would be prohibited within three miles of the shore.

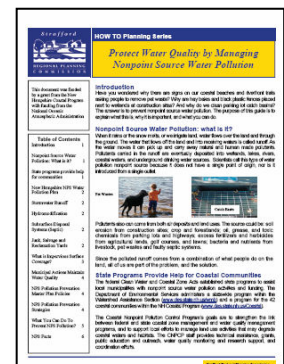
Contact the Clean Vessel Act Program at (603) 271-0698 or acarlson@des.state.nh.us to receive a copy of the brochure. For more information on New Hampshire's No Discharge area, visit: <http://www.des.nh.gov/wmb/cva/>

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■ How-to Planning Series Nonpoint Source Pollution ■

Two additional guides in the how-to planning series by the Strafford Regional Planning Commission and partially funded by NHCP are now available: How-to Reduce Nonpoint Source Water Pollution in Rural Areas, Promote Open Space Conservation/Cluster Development Subdivisions, and How-to Improve Neighborhood Design and Reduce Nonpoint Source Water Pollution.

These comprehensive reports are eight pages long and include additional references and graphics related to each topic. They talk about how to address nonpoint source

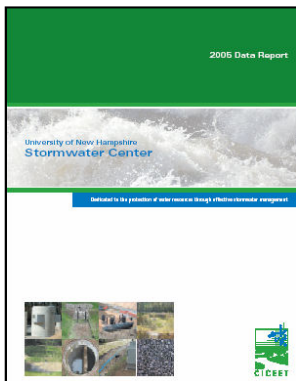


pollution in New Hampshire's coastal watershed in an easy-to read format.

To download the guides, visit <http://www.straftord.org/archives.htm#howto>

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■ Stormwater Center Report ■



The Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology has released the first year of data from the Stormwater Center at the University of New Hampshire.

This inaugural report presents the first year monitoring results for 12 stormwater treatment systems, including each system's success at addressing water quality and quantity. The center's field site is unique in its capacity to test stormwater treatments, side-by-side, under strictly controlled conditions. To download the report, visit:

http://ciceet.unh.edu/news/releases/stormwater_report_05/

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About this e-newsletter

The Rip Tide is NHCP's bi-monthly e-newsletter.

All subscribers (e-mail addresses) on this list are kept confidential and are not shared by NHCP.

Contact Cathy Coletti, editor, at (603) 559-0024 with questions or comments.

About NHCP

NHCP's mission is to "balance the preservation of natural resources of the coast with social and economic needs of this and succeeding generations."

NHCP gained federal approval in 1982 under the provisions of the Coastal Zone Management Act, initially for the areas in proximity to the Atlantic shore and the lower Piscataqua River. In 1988, the program added areas bordering the Great Bay and tidal rivers, but only up to the statutory (RSA 482-A) limits for tidal flow. In 2004, the landward boundary was again expanded to encompass the total area of the 17 tidal municipalities.

The map depicts New Hampshire's Coastal Watershed area. The 42 communities that make up the watershed are linked



by waterways back to the 17 tidal coastal communities and ultimately to the Gulf of Maine.

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services administers NHCP. NHCP is networked with other state agencies, which help enforce the program's 16 coastal policies and conduct reviews of projects in the New Hampshire coastal zone.